IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) Water outlet box, in particular for the cylinder head of an internal combustion engine, comprising a regulating thermostat substantially ~~consisting of~~ including a valve to block an opening of a passage emerging in said box, said valve being carried and ~~centred~~ centered by a portion of frontal spindle engaged in a bearing, which is integral with the box, stressed against its seat, formed by the peripheral edge of the ~~above-mentioned~~ opening, by an elastic loading means and moved away from said seat by a pressure means which reacts to heat, said means with opposed actions resting, directly or indirectly, on a stress-absorbing clamp which also ensures that said thermostat is mounted and positioned in cooperation with said bearing, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said box (1) is produced in a thermoplastic material and comprises, on the internal face of its constitutive wall (1'), at least two internal protrusions (10, 10') providing permanent support surfaces (10") for the clamp (9) of said thermostat (2), before and after installation of said box (1), and

wherein the clamp (9) has a structure in the form of a small plate and comprises two opposed lateral legs (9') and that the protrusions (10 and 10') consist of two opposed internal radial projections of the wall (1') of the water box (1) formed in one piece with the wall.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently amended) Box according to claim ~~2~~ 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the two opposed radial projections (10 and 10') are formed by ~~localised~~ localized thickenings of the wall (1') of the box (1) having, in the direction of the bearing (6) receiving the portion of spindle (5) integral with the valve (3), support surfaces (10") situated in a plane which is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis (X) of the thermostat (2), the portions (11) of the internal face of the wall (1') adjoining said support surfaces (10") of the projections (10, 10') constituting the ~~centring~~ centering surfaces, coaxial to the internal surface of said bearing (6) and intended to cooperate with the ends of the legs (9') of the clamp (9) to retain the clamp laterally.

4. (Previously presented) Box according to claim 1, characterised in that it has a cylindrical structure with a circular section, of which the longitudinal axis merges with the axis (X) of the thermostat (2) in the mounted state, the internal protrusions (10, 10') extending, viewed in a plane perpendicular to the axis (X) of the box (1), along two restricted arcs of a circle and forming two diametrically opposed annular portions.

5. (Previously presented) Box according to claim 1, characterised in that it is made of PA66 containing glass fibres.

6. (Previously presented) Box according to claim 1, characterised in that it is formed of two complementary parts (12 and 12') assembled together by vibration welding at a joint face (P) perpendicular to the axis (X) of the thermostat (2) in the mounted state and situated beyond the internal protrusions (10, 10').

7. (Previously presented) Box according to claim 1, characterised in that the support surfaces (10") comprise sites, recessed or protruding, for indexing or engaging the lateral legs (9') of the stress-absorbing clamp (9) of the thermostat (2), intended, if necessary, to engage in a complementary manner with the specific formation of the said legs (9').

8. (New) Water outlet box, for the cylinder head of an internal combustion engine, comprising a regulating thermostat substantially including a valve to block an opening of a passage emerging in said box, said valve being carried and centred by a portion of frontal spindle engaged in a bearing, which is integral with the box, stressed against its seat, formed by the peripheral edge of the above-mentioned opening, by an elastic loading means and moved away from said seat by a pressure means which reacts to heat, said means with opposed actions resting, directly or indirectly, on a stress-absorbing clamp which also ensures that said thermostat is mounted and positioned in cooperation with said bearing, characterised in that said box (1) is produced in a thermoplastic material and comprises, on the internal face of its constitutive wall(1'), at least two internal protrusions (10,10') providing permanent support surfaces (10") for the clamp (9) of said thermostat (2), before and after installation of said box (1), said constitutive wall (1') being integral with said box and said internal protrusions (10, 10') being formed in one piece with said constitutive wall (1').